

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-9 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, these claims will not be rewritten in independent form at this time because their respective independent claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-4 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 522 754 (Harada et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted. The carriage includes a toothed belt and preventing means. The toothed belt extends between a driving pulley and an idler pulley, the carriage being attached to the toothed belt. The preventing means prevents idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt, and comprises a

jumping preventing surface provided in the vicinity of the driving pulley and opposed to a back surface of the toothed belt.

With the above arrangement, in an apparatus that can scan a carriage with high precision, jumping of the toothed belt can be effectively prevented.

Harada et al. relates to a carriage shifting apparatus including a driving pulley 11, a driven pulley 12, a timing belt 13 extending between the pulleys, and tension applying means 16 for applying a constant tension to the timing belt. The tension applying means includes a tension plate 16b rotatably mounted to a chassis and the driven pulley 12 is rotatably mounted on the upper end of the tension plate. A tension spring 16c biases the plate so as to apply tension force to the timing belt. A viscoelastic member 17 is also attached to the plate and a weight body 18 is attached to the viscoelastic member. These are used to decrease vibration and noise and are not for preventing idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt. Moreover, viscoelastic member 17 and weight body 18 are provided near driven pulley 12, not driving pulley 11.

Accordingly, Harada et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least preventing means for preventing idle rotation of a driving pulley with respect to a toothed belt, with the preventing means comprising a jumping preventing surface provided in the vicinity of the driving pulley and opposed to a back surface of the toothed belt, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-14 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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